

# The State Journal

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1877.

Jules Simon is—"Left"

The French ministry are all out of sorts.

A large forest in New England is on fire. Great loss of timber.

Mr. Tilden wants Randall re-elected Speaker of the House.

A shortlived show is predicted of the Philadelphia Exposition now in progress.

All Europe is in a state of feverish turmoil and trouble. The great powers are all suspicious of each other.

Kelly thinks the Speaker of the next House of Congress will be "a paper dollar man"—and so we go.

At last accounts the Russians were about to take a Turkish bath of blood—on the Danube, a Gurgevo.

A little excitement is stirred up by the—Pole. The longest one will reach the—"Bear."

A grand filibustering expedition against Mexico, is believed to be secretly planning, under the guise of a vast mining enterprise.

It is American to sympathize with Russia; but there are many in our midst who are Turks in her present war on the Sick Man of the East.

Nobody appears to be afraid of any thing but an increase of only 12,000 men has been distributed among the garrisons of Alsace and Lorraine.

Senator Blaine has had an interview with the President, and the anticipated breach between them is not developed. Still the politicians are not happy.

"Ah Sin," the new play, the product of the combined talent of Bret Harte and Mark Twain, has been put upon the boards at Washington with grand success.

We find that we must touch the Tribune tenderly about that Congressional gerrymandering bill. Its ashamed of it already and wants to change the subject. We don't blame it.

Some of our leading dailies busy their editors in sketching delightful plans of bloody battles—unfortunately never fought—between the Turks and Cossacks. Pity so much talent is exerted at such long range.

The gossip-gatherer for the G-D. "at the corners," is the medium of our information that Overstoltz was pulled into the Mayor's chair by the strong effort of a "few" men. Let's see—10,000 majority was it?

The Turkish conflict with Russia has been pronounced "a holy war" by the sublime head of the church of Mohammed, and now we may expect all the great host of zealous believers in Islamism to rally to Sultan's standard that infidel Russia may be finally and forever crushed.

The letter of John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, French, puts a practical meaning upon the injunction to "let no guilty man escape." He directs that the district Attorney's be instructed to collect the judgments obtained in the whisky prosecutions.

In a suit of the Western Union Telegraph Company to enjoin the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company from erecting their line along the right of way of the Chicago & Rock Island railroad from, the Atlantic & Pacific Company was successful. Another triumph for cheap telegraph rates.

Secretary Sherman announces that in addition to the \$50,000,000 of 4-1/2 per cent. bonds taken on the 5th inst, to provide for the call of that date, he has sold, under the resumption act, to the Syndicate, \$5,000,000 of said bonds at par in gold coin, to be paid for during the month of May and June. The gold thus received will be sold for currency at the pleasure of the Secretary.

We learn from the Philadelphia Times that there are some indications after all, that a revival of the old Whig party may take place in Virginia, and have its effect upon the election in that State this fall, when a Governor is to be chose. As in many of the southern States, the Democratic party is to large too be convenient, and seeking some question upon which to divide is not unlikely to separate on the President's Southern policy. There is reported to be a large element which warmly indorses Mr. Hayes' course, but will not act with the Republican party, while the older Hunker Democrats are endeavoring to keep the party together by continuing the fight against Hayes' title.

Prof. Riley, Missouri's intrepid bug hunter, sends the country "greeting" from the plains of Texas and Kansas. Whatever may have been the designs of the grasshopper hordes, the result of the Professor's timely visit is the proclamation that no harm may be feared from them in that locality. The Professor and his entomological commission, deserves the applause of an overjoyed populace at the favorable results of their inquiries.

Attention is directed to the call published in our local columns for a meeting of citizens to make suitable arrangements for the proper observance of Decoration Day. This, the 30th of May, as a holiday has become nationalized. Properly speaking it is a day set apart for appropriate services of respect to the memory of the nations dead soldiery, and happily it is one in which every citizen who admires heroism and deeds of valor by whomsoever performed, can participate, more especially when in the service of a great, free and united republic. We trust that the meeting may be harmonious and that every thing will be done "decently and in order" in preparation for the solemn occasion.

Concerning the reported filibustering expedition into Mexico, the American Associated Press Correspondent says:

One of the leaders of the movement is Gen. Vaughan, who was one of the youngest leaders of the Walker Nicaraguan Expedition, and the same General who seized Guatemala and held it for two years. He has been in this city for some time holding frequent conference with prominent officials and, it is said, has been interviewing Secretary Everts in the hope of obtaining positive assurance of non-intervention on the part of the Government to molest the expedition. James D. Roston, of Philadelphia, is also one of the principal parties at work, and will command a branch of the expedition. He has had several years' experience on the frontier, and is acquainted with the Mexican country. Gen. Frank Armstrong, an ex-Confederate officer, of the late war, is one of the chief workers, and another still is Gen. Jo. O. Shelby, of Missouri. He is regarded as a man of considerable military tact, being the same Jo. Shelby who, during the rebellion, refused to surrender with Gen. Dick Taylor, but made his way through the lines into Mexico, and joined the forces of Maximilian. He is perfectly familiar with the Mexican country and will be one of the commanders.

## REVOLUTION IN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

From the Boston Commercial Bulletin we learn of a new method of track building which in point of economy, safety and durability is bound to work a wide-spread revolution in the business of railroad building. The Bulletin says: Until recently it was the intention of the Boston, Winthrop and Point Shirley Railroad Company to use forty pound per yard T rails in the construction of the road, but after a full investigation, and by the indorsement and advice to the best railroad engineers, it was decided to use twenty pounds per yard angle rails, bolted to substantial wooden stringers, which are placed on ordinary ties, and by which dangers proceeding from broken rails are avoided, and a large saving made in cost of construction. The contract for the rails and completion of the road has been signed by Albet L. Rice, Esq., president of the Angle-Iron railway Construction Company of Boston. The rails will arrive this week, and track-laying will be begun immediately. It is believed that the construction of this road will make a new era in the history of railroads, and that a complete revolution in construction will take place, as the angle rail is adopted to standard as well as narrow-gauge roads.

## REDISTRICTING THE STATE.

The fair and impartial criticism of the redistricting law, in which the Osage News indulges, is widely in contrast with the high commendation of it at the hands of our neighbor of the Tribune when the bill was pending. The news has the manliness to say:

"Even as an election or partisan job it was unwise, for no party that fails to act in a fair, honest and impartial manner, can long hope to enjoy the confidence of the masses of the people."

But the Tribune, a fair type of unscrupulous partisanship and Bourbon democracy, says this:

The bill for reorganizing the congressional districts prepared by Mr. Newsom of New Madrid, and introduced by Senator Claiborne, come nearer hitting the mark than any bill yet introduced in either house. It will certainly accomplish that, which every Democrat means shall be done, before the adjournment, namely, the arrangement of the Congressional districts so that Missouri, with her 60,000 Democratic majority, shall hereafter be represented by a solid Democratic delegation in Congress. In the framing of such a bill, there are always difficulties to

be encountered, in the personal interests of members or their friends, but no true Democrat can withhold his support from a measure tending to secure so natural and just a right, as that the overwhelming Democratic majority of the State shall be made to serve the party interests in the national as well as the State councils. Under this bill the Democrats of the first district will be pleased in a condition which it will not be necessary for them to compromise with either party, nor be held in the power of any nationality, and enable them to elect their nominee hereafter, with certainty, no matter who he may be, or where he may live.

The Tenth is also made secure by the addition of a few Democratic counties, while the sixth is established in a solid majority of 1,700.

A bill that will surely accomplish so much, ought certainly to be accepted by the Democrats, notwithstanding it may not, in all respects, suit everybody. The importance of the end aimed at will, we have no doubt, outweigh any personal objections to its passage. One thing is very sure, the Democrats of the State expect the General Assembly to place the security of an unbroken delegating in Congress in the future, beyond danger or dispute, and we have no doubt the members will not fail to meet, in this matter, the just expectations of their constituents.

## IS IT SAFE FOR A REPUBLICAN DOWN SOUTH?

We clip the following from the Rockingham, Virginia, Register. We will not stop at this time to comment on the publication, but submit it to our readers for what it is worth. Much as we may disclaim it, it is never the less believed as a fact by people of the North that their presence in the South is unwelcome. At any rate that their presence is not congenial to the people of the South.

But this is what the Register says:

We publish the communication below which we find in the Alexandria Gazette. It seems a difficult matter to impress some men with the truth. We have again and again repeated that a Republican down here is just as safe if he behaves himself as any other man, and is treated with all the amenities if he is a good citizen. The press of the State generally have so asserted. Indeed neither is hardly required to an intelligent mind, when it is remembered that nearly a hundred thousand Republicans live in Virginia, some in the Legislature, others holding other offices—Judges of the U. S. Court, Marshals, Attorneys, Commissioners, etc.—not one of whom requiring guard or a friend on the darkest night in the most populous conservative townships. It is simply so absurd in the face of these facts to appear to have doubts on the subject, that we are sometimes inclined to believe correspondents on this subject are dissembling, and merely desire to reflect on Conservatives, or give themselves an unnecessary prominence by interrogatories. The Valley, with its rich, fertile lands and great mineral wealth, beautiful scenery and healthful climate, has been open to all comers, of whatever political thought, since peace was proclaimed.—We especially invite all quiet, industrious men to come and labor among us, and purchase our lands which are in market. We are not going into ecstasies over their arrival, of course, whether they be Democrat or Radical, no fete them with banquet, route or revel. We hospitably invite and respectfully receive them and concede all the courtesies which good conduct warrants. We have prominent Republicans right around us, perhaps they would like to respond to this letter writer.—Senator Lewis who resides twelve miles from Harrisonburg, and has been riding safely from his river farm to Harrisonburg and back during the and since the war, can answer properly. Capt. Luty, U. S. Attorney can answer for the section from Abingdon via Danville, and Lynchburg to Harrisonburg. Col. Gray, U. S. Marshal, can answer. These gentlemen are surrounded by Conservatives as neighbors, who visit them every day the last named gentleman living under the roof of a gallant Confederate officer, without having his throat cut and free from intimidation. If it would tend to convince doubtful minds, Judge Rives would no doubt, enter on the records of the U. S. Court, that peace prevails in Virginia, that all the Constitutional amendments are in full force and effect, and that Republicans can eat, and drink and work and sleep, and travel and make visits and receive visits, with none to molest or make him afraid. This is all that can be said of conservative privileges. We have, to be sure, prohibitory laws as to theft and robbery and murder and arson and burglary. We have anti-gambling laws, and laws punishing acts against decency and morality. These laws are visited on white and black without reference to party. We cannot con-

sent, even for immigration purposes to abolish them, and we presume good citizens would hardly demand it. But read the letter, and our columns are open to these gentlemen above named, or any other reputable member of the party to respond.

The following postal card to Messrs. Green & Wise, of this city, shows what they think of us in Michigan:—

ROSEVILLE MACCOMB CO. MIC.  
April 19, 1877

GENTLEMEN:—Your bulletin received. We are not willing to go South. There almost all are democrats, and what would Northern republicans do there? only get killed with all their families by kuklux and others. We would have no protection whatsoever; only have notice to leave the place in such a time or be killed and burned out.

Respectfully,  
G. SCHUCHART

GERRYMANDERING.

The Osage County News, in speaking of the law of last legislature, redistricting the State into Congressional Districts and of the party that passed it, has to say: But while we glory in Democracy we blush for those misguided Democrats who stoop to such dirty, unscrupulous trickery as the measure in question to insure present party success. We have no use for a Democratic demagogue or trickster, nor have we either praise or sympathy for a lot of men, who, elected to serve the people and paid by the people, close their eyes to the public weal, and rush into legislation aimed solely for the advancement of partisan ends.

The system of gerrymandering by which the Legislature has sought to insure the election of Democrats to Congress by putting Republican counties into overwhelmingly Democratic districts, without regard to contiguity of constituency or identity of interests, ought to have no place in the policy of an honest party or of an honest man. It is born of that hell-yomited code of public morals which declares "any trick fair in politics" so long as the perpetrators escape punishment.

The bill really amounts, so far as this district is concerned, to do nothing more nor less than stifling the voice of Gasconade's 600 Republican majority, which was formidable in a close district like and old 5th, but which will never heard in the new 11th district.

If a Republican Legislature had passed such an act in their own behalf, every Democratic paper in the State would ere this have been hurling anathemas, and justly too, upon the party that endorsed such action. Then, as a Democratic measure, is it not equally unjust, oppressive and improper.

Even as an election or partisan job it was unwise, for no party that fails to act in a fair, honest and impartial manner, can long hope to enjoy the confidence of the masses of the people.

We regard the measure as undemocratic, in as much as it is unjust. And we believe that the Democratic party—the masses of the honest handworking people of the State—is opposed to any such policy as the bill foreshadows. If any district in Missouri is Republican, we would a thousand times rather see a Republican represent that district in Congress than that a wholesale system of gerrymandering should give it to the Democracy.

## ANOTHER BOND DECISION.

An important case relative to county bonds has recently been decided by the United States Supreme Court. The case was the Town of East Lincoln vs. Chas. Davenport, on appeal from the Southern District of Illinois, and involved a subscription of \$60,000 bonds to some corporation, the name of which is not given, and is not material. The bonds sued on were in the hand of third parties. The defense was that there was misconduct on the part of the Town Commissioner, who signed the bonds at midnight, and absconded to avoid an injunction. The Court held that the town must bear the misconduct of its agent rather than third parties, and that the bonds were legal, as "a majority of the whole attended the election and voted in favor of the subscription."

This decision bears directly upon certain bond cases affecting township and county bonds in this state. The Circuit Court have heretofore decided a great number of Missouri, county and city bonds void for want of compliance with certain constitutional requirements with reference to registration, and for the further reason in many cases, that the subscriptions were authorized by a majority vote of those voting; whereas, the courts say, the intent of the law in such cases is that a majority of all the legal voters to be affected is required. This view is substantially sustained in the Supreme Court in the decision above mentioned; and thus, the same principle which was invoked against the Missouri bonds, in this case has operated in favor of the bond-holders, and seems now to be the accepted and established doctrine of the United States Supreme Court.

A number of Southern members have pledged themselves not to vote for any person for speaker who does not favor the passage of the Texas Pacific Railroad bill.—Boston Advertiser, Washington Special.

It is pleasant to note a dawning disposition among Southern Congressmen not to be tied to the tail-end of the Bourbonism any longer.—New Orleans Times.

If this kind of resolution be adhered to, some business may be transacted by the next Congress.—St. Louis Dispatch.

## LITERARY NOTES—JUNE.

ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CONTENTS OF THE FORTHCOMING NUMBERS OF SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY AND ST. NICHOLAS.

The 'Culture and Progress' department of Scribner now contains a monthly letter of gossip from London about 'New English Books.'

The 'Home and Society' department of the June Scribner will contain two articles of interest to the Summer tourist who is going to 'rough it.' They will be entitled 'A Makeshift Bedstead' and 'Camp Stoves and Cooking Utensils,' and each will be accompanied by a diagram.

Col. Waring will have a paper in Scribner for June, on 'Sanitary Work in Villages,' giving practical suggestions about drainage, both in-doors and out, and strongly advocating the adoption of the earth-closet. An interesting and novel experiment made in connection with the disposal of sewage at Lenox, Mass., is described.

The forthcoming (June) number of 'Nicholas Minturn,' (Dr. Holland's serial story now appearing in Scribner's Monthly) contains an important discussion on the subject which is the theme of the book—namely, the proper treatment of the pauper and the tramp.

Clarence Cook will reply, in the 'Home and Society' department of Scribner for June, to 'A Perplexed Housekeeper,' whose glassware is sniffed at by her friend, Amelia, 'who visits friends in the city.' In the course of the article Mr. Cook will give suggestions about the different kinds of table-glass.

The opening illustration in Scribner for June will be a portrait of Bartholdi, the sculptor of the statue of 'Liberty Enlightening the World,' to be erected in New York Harbor. The original drawing for this out was made by Mr. Wyatt Eaton, whose 'Harvesters at Rest' has a position of honor in this year's exhibition of the National Academy.

'Croton Water' is the subject of a profusely illustrated paper in the coming (June) Scribner, the text by Wm. H. Rideing. The workings of aqueducts are fully described. The necessity for economy in the use of water is insisted upon, and the water-meter subject is discussed. Some anecdotes are told of narrow escapes from drowning by parties repairing the interior of the aqueduct.

The June Scribner will contain a descriptive and critical paper by Charles De Kay, on the sculptor Bartholdi and his work. In addition to three cuts of the statue of 'Liberty Enlightening the World' there will be illustrations of the Lafayette statue in Union Square, and another important work by the same hand, 'The Lion of Belport.' It is said that some pieces by Bartholdi are to be seen on a church in Boston.

'Traditional Music of the Spanish Pyrenees,' is the title of a paper in the forthcoming (June) Scribner, by Miss Nena Sturgis, which contains the scores of a number of songs, sung for many years by natives of the Pyrenees, but never before set to music. These songs are said to be very fresh and delightful—just the thing to give a pleasant surprise at an evening gathering. A companion paper, dealing with similar songs of the French Pyrenees, was printed in Scribner for February.

The Russian novelist, Tourgueneff will receive considerable attention in Scribner for June and July. In the former number there will be a biographical and critical sketch of him by Mr. Boyesen, while 'The Old Cabinet,' besides reprinting an interview with the novelist, will discuss the quality of his imagination. In the July number 25 pages will be devoted to one of his short stories, of which a horse is the hero. Another new artist appears in this connection,—Mr. George Inness, Jr., who has made two drawings for the story.

## A TURKISH VIEW OF RUSSIA'S INTENTIONS.

Gen. Tevfik, the Turkish inspector of arms in this country, in talking with a Tribune reporter about the war in the East, said it was admitted that the Mohammedans persecuted and wronged Christians years ago, but the hostile feelings thus caused were gradually dying out and a friend by and patriotic spirit was developing among the people of all creeds in Turkey. It was the policy of the czar's government to keep alive the old hatred, and his agents were active in fanning the fires of discord and in promising to the Bulgarians and Greeks the lands of the Mohammedans. "I'll tell you a story that applies to the Greeks and Bulgarians," said General Tevfik. "Two cats fought over a cheese that they had found, and then asked a monkey who happened to be near to divide the cheese between them. The monkey cut the cheese into two unequal parts, and then proceeded to weigh them. 'This piece is too large,' observed the monkey, biting and eating half of the larger pieces. 'Why, it now weighs less than the other,' and he bit a piece from the other portion. The cat seeing that they had made a mistake in their selection of an arbitrator, told him that they were satisfied of his good intentions, but they thought they could now divide the cheese themselves. 'You may be satisfied,' replied the monkey, 'but justice must also be satisfied, and I must be satisfied for my palis,' and he ate up the remainder of the cheese. The czar is the arbitrator whom the Bulgarians and Greeks have chosen."